

Office of Environmental Response

The Office of Environmental Response (OER) protects the public in the event of environmental emergencies and addresses short-term and long-term cleanup projects at contaminated sites throughout the state by:

- Remediating and cleaning up property
- Ensuring underground storage tank compliance
- Responding to environmental emergencies

Remediation and Cleanup Programs

The Voluntary Remediation Program provides current and prospective site owners with a mechanism to clean up contaminated property with IDEM oversight and closure. Since July 1997, IDEM has accepted more than 140 sites into the program and has overseen 200 active sites. In addition, more than 40 sites have been cleaned up and issued certificates of completion.

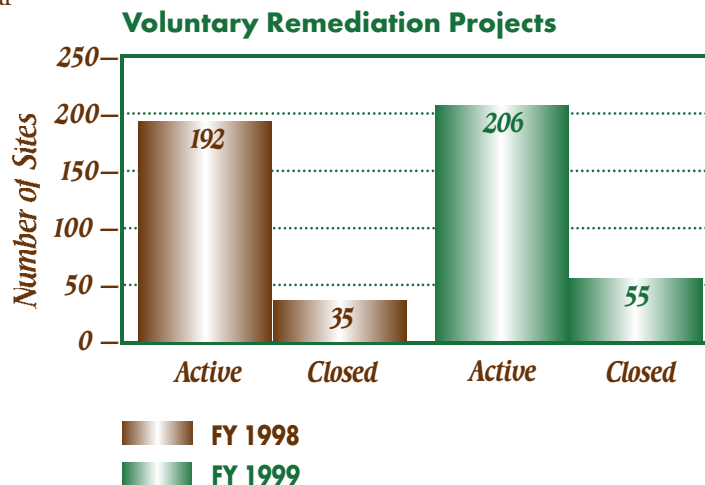
OER's Superfund staff works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct and oversee the

clean up of contaminated sites. In the past two years, IDEM assisted more than 30 sites and removed two sites from the Superfund list.

Staff in OER's State Cleanup Program manages sites that do not qualify for the Superfund program. In the last year, IDEM worked on more than 10 sites.

IDEM's Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) assists the Department of Defense, in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, in the investigation and cleanup of active and closing military bases at which hazardous substances were used, stored or disposed of during post operations. Most recently, DERP assisted on the construction of a new correctional facility at Grissom Air Force Base. Construction started in July 1997, and the facility is now in use.

- Worked toward clean up at 200 active voluntary remediation sites and 30 Superfund sites
- Returned 100% of underground storage tank sites with emergency conditions to safe standards
- Conducted 700 emergency field responses





Underground Storage Tanks

OER also oversees the cleanup of releases from regulated underground storage tanks. In fiscal years 1998 and 1999, IDEM obtained closure at more than 1,400 sites and returned 100% of sites identified with emergency conditions to safe standards.

Emergency Response

IDEM's Office of Emergency Response personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to environmental emergencies. When necessary, state funds can be used to control and clean up oil spills, hazardous material accidents and releases of other objectionable substances. Between July 1997 and June 1999, the Emergency Response staff received more than 5,000 reports and made more than 700 field responses.

